

and/or the onset of winter is delayed. Further records are necessary to determine whether the list of insects with this habit is growing longer as a result of the current trend to climatic warming in Britain.

References

- Heath, J. et al (1979). *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Vol. 9.
Hoffman, Dr E. (1897). *Die Gross Schmetterlinge Europas*.
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An exceptionally early date for the Stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* L.

The advanced emergence of many insects has been quite remarkable in 1990, none more so than that of the Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*. In the suburbs of south London, this is a common species from mid June onwards, with males frequently encountered on pavements. This year, the earliest record I have is 6th May (1990) when two males were seen on the pavement near my home. At the same locality on 15th May, I saw a solitary male and a pair *in cop*. All of these individuals are likely to have emerged from an old lime *Tilia x europaea* stump which has been colonised for many years.

On the subject of Stag beetles, the following observations may also be of interest: Stag beetles, especially males, are readily attracted to m.v. lights. Grounded individuals require a vantage point from which to take off and climb any appropriate vegetation as a prelude to wing beating. By chance, the majority climb frail plants and, consequently, as they flap their wings the plant bends over, directing the hapless beetle earthbound again. To be successful, it seems that the insect must be virtually vertical whilst taking off.

The ability of male Stag beetles to use their mandibles seems to be underestimated by some people. They are by no means as weak as some would believe. This was clearly illustrated by my cat, when playing with a male Stag beetle which had come to my m.v. light the previous night. Soon, there was a loud scream as the cat leapt into the air impaled through its nostril by the beetle's mandibles which are clearly both fast and powerful, and deserve respect.— R.K.A. MORRIS, 241 Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1HB.

***Dichrorampha senectana* (Guenée) bred from *C. leucanthemum* (L.), Ox-eye Daisy.**

Little seems to be known of the larval foodplant of this species in Britain. Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (1979) cite Meyrick (1928) as stating that it perhaps feeds on *Chrysanthemum* and continental authors who record the same foodplant. Emmet (1988) cites these continental authors.

On 11th October 1989 I visited Tregantle Cliffs, near Plymouth,